

# Biting Wind and Error Spoil Brooklyn Opening

Phillies Jump Off in Front by Beating Superbas in National League Race.

RUCKER VIES WITH SEATON

Muff of a Fly by Benny Meyer Opens Way for Lone Run and a Bitter Defeat.

Nobody untutored in the mysteries of clairvoyance would have suspected that when Benny Meyer dropped an inoffensive looking fly in the first inning of the opening battle of the National League pennant struggle at Ebbets' Field yesterday the result would be a defeat for Nap Rucker and a blot on the escutcheon of the Superbas in their first game of the season.

Even Fred Snodgrass could have picked out no better place for a muff, as there were two out and a runner camping on second base. This same individual was gone other than the pesky Otto Knabe, who crossed the plate with the only run of the game. For nine rapid innings the Superbas struggled valiantly against the invincible Seaton, of Philadelphia, to get back the costly tally, but they were vigorously repulsed, partly through sterling pitching and partly through sharp fielding. Once during the struggle they got a man as far as third base, but he advanced no further, and the plate at the new park remains undented by a Brooklyn runner in a regular game. The final score was 1 to 0.

Although the furnishings and surroundings are all new, the same old fate that has dogged Rucker's career since his advent in Brooklyn seems conspicuously present. He put up a pretty fight, pitching his head off to keep the Phillies from scoring, while his teammates were making a futile assault on the enemy's defenses, but it was all in vain. Bill Dahlen's crowd could not squeeze a single run across the plate, so they start the season in undisputed possession of the cellar, while the konfalon of Philadelphia is floating proudly alone at the crest.

Charlie Ebbets, who can spot a holiday in the distance quicker than any man living, must have been somewhat disappointed at the size of the crowd, which did not begin to fill the grandstand. There were ten or twelve thousand "fans" on hand, but the cold weather kept many of those away who had not purchased their seats in advance for the opening. Then, again, the affair of last Saturday served to satiate the appetites of all but the dyed-in-the-wool, and the novelty of a game in the new park having worn off, the interest was not as keen as usual when the gong for the pennant race rings.

Preparations were made to handle a throng as great as the one of last week and those who had purchased their reservations in advance came early to avoid the rush. The park was opened at an early hour in the afternoon, and with Shannon's Twenty-third Regiment band to enliven things spectators and players alike were thankful that the "Turkey Trot" had been invented because it served as an admirable means to keep up the circulation.

During the preliminaries Cozy Dolan, now left fielder of the Phillies, but formerly third baseman of the Yankees, invaded the precincts of the band, and, grasping the leader's baton, marshalled the musicians through the maze of a rag, while Robert and Doolan gave an exhibition of the Texas Tommy which would give some of the Giants pause, as several members of McGraw's team consider themselves particularly proficient in this particular product of the Lone Star State.

The ceremonies attendant upon the opening of the season were varied but unoriginal. Jake Daubert collected several souvenirs. One of them was an enormous floral horseshoe standing somewhat higher than the valiant first baseman himself, while a glided bat for decorative purposes and a home run club for business purposes bespoke the popularity of one of the most brilliant players in the game.

Before the contest could begin it was necessary to have a flag raising of some kind, so the players of both teams, preceded by the band, marched across the field and attended to Old Glory. Although this same thing was done last Saturday, an opening is an opening, and no part of the ritual may be omitted. If there are two or three openings it is all the same. Borough President Alfred E. Steers was intrusted with the responsibility of tossing out a new ball to the irrepressible Bill Klem, who revelled in the vocal accomplishments and acrobatics which lend such decisiveness to his opinions.

**Phillies Start with Snap and Vim.**  
The Phillies appeared to be a fast and well conditioned team, with the entire line-up intact for as brilliant a get-away as they made in 1911. In the first place, it was noted that Charlie Doolan has kidnapped the little hunchbacked mascot who guided the Athletics to two world's championships, but whose spell was broken last season.  
It is high time that the flame haired leader of the Phillies attached some luck bringer to his staff, and if he can get as much as a fleeting smile now and then from the fickle goddess he is likely to be up in the thick of the pennant race this season.

The only new face in the line-up is Dolan, in left field, who was not afforded an opportunity yesterday to show his skill at fielding, but who cracked one of Nap Rucker's curves for a sharp, clean single in the first inning, which would have scored Magee from second had Stengel not made a sparkling play and nailed the runner at the plate with a splendid throw. Knabe, Doolan and Lobert appeared to be in sterling form.

Although the battle between Rucker and Seaton was one of exceptional brilliancy for this or any other time of the year, only fielding of the highest type choked off the runs. Doolan, who is almost without a peer in the league as a fielding shortstop, played a dazzling game for the Phillies, accepting seven chances without an error. He covered vast quantities of ground, robbing Brooklyn of hits right and left. He made the most important of which the game, the most important of which was the forcing of Fisher at third when Callahan hit to short in the thrilling eighth inning, when there were two on and none out.

Cutshaw made an appealing figure at second base for the Superbas. He fielded

## Baseball Guns Boom To-Day

NATIONAL LEAGUE GAMES TO-DAY.  
Boston at New York.  
Brooklyn at Philadelphia.  
St. Louis at Chicago.

RESULT OF GAME YESTERDAY.  
Philadelphia, 1; Brooklyn, 0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE STANDING.  
W. L. P. C.  
Phila. 1 0 1000 St. Louis 0 0 000  
Brooklyn 0 1 000 Chicago 0 0 000  
New York 0 0 000 Cincinnati 0 0 000  
Boston 0 0 000 Pittsburgh 0 0 000

AMERICAN LEAGUE GAMES TO-DAY.  
New York at Washington.  
Philadelphia at Boston.  
Chicago at Cleveland.  
Detroit at St. Louis.

Opening in Cincinnati postponed two days on account of recent floods.  
Mayor Gaynor to throw out first ball at Polo Grounds to-day, when game is called, at 2:30 o'clock.

his position with accuracy and skill, handling six chances flawlessly. Several of them were hard ones. Perhaps the most sensational play of the game from the Brooklyn point of view was the throw of Stengel's which caught Magee at the plate, but Fisher did a nice piece of work when he tossed Lobert out at third on Dolan's grounder in the fourth, after Hans had been sacrificed to second by Magee. Jake Daubert was his old self at first, and Wheat contributed a nice catch of Luden's fly, although his day's work was slightly marred by letting Doolin's single sneak through him for two bases in the fifth frame. This misplay, however, was not costly.

**Pitchers Battle for Victory.**  
Such a duel between pitchers as Rucker and Seaton put up was more to be expected in August than in April. But realizing that victory was going to come hard, both worked strenuously to get it. Each pitcher gave one pass to first, the Philadelphia striking out seven men and Rucker four. The Superbas retired in order for the first five innings, three men reaching first on hits, two of them being thrown out stealing second. Daubert pilfered the midway successfully, but was killed off when he tried to reach third on a short passed ball.

Although Rucker singled in the sixth frame and Meyer walked in the seventh it wasn't until the eighth that Brooklyn got the way shaped for a run. With one out, Fisher and Miller got to first on scratch infield hits. Then Seaton (lightning) forced Callahan, who batted for Rucker to hit into a force-out, while Stengel was straggled by Doolan. Seaton finished the game in a blaze of glory, retiring the side in order, fanning Erwin, who batted for Meyer, and making Zach Wheat walk the plank, as well.

Rucker did not pitch quite as smooth a game as Seaton. In the first inning the Phillies hit the ball hard, and collected three of their eight hits. They would not have scored, however, but for Meyer's error. Only three times thereafter did the visitors get a man to second, and never was there more than one man on the base at one time, Rucker holding the command of the situation.

The lower end of the Brooklyn batting order did most of the damage. Fisher, Miller and Rucker dividing among them four of the six hits made off Seaton's delivery. The young catcher, who has a brilliant career ahead of him, made two of these. Smith, good a hitter as he is, struck out on his three appearances at the plate.  
Doolin, who hastened back from the funeral of his brother to take part in the game, and Otto Knabe, the most familiar with Rucker's curves, each making two hits. The second baseman made the only extra base hit of the game, a double to right in the first inning, which put him in a position to score the winning run.

The score follows:  
PHILADELPHIA. ab r h po a e  
Packard, cf. 4 0 0 0 0 0  
Knabe, 2b. 3 1 2 0 0 0  
Magee, 3b. 3 0 1 0 0 0  
Doolan, 1b. 4 0 1 0 0 0  
Luden, 1b. 4 0 0 1 0 0  
Fisher, 2b. 3 0 1 0 0 0  
Seaton, p. 6 0 1 2 0 0  
Totals. 29 1 8 27 10 6

Batted for Meyer in ninth inning. Batted for Rucker in eighth inning.  
PHILADELPHIA. ab r h po a e  
Packard, cf. 4 0 0 0 0 0  
Knabe, 2b. 3 1 2 0 0 0  
Magee, 3b. 3 0 1 0 0 0  
Doolan, 1b. 4 0 1 0 0 0  
Luden, 1b. 4 0 0 1 0 0  
Fisher, 2b. 3 0 1 0 0 0  
Seaton, p. 6 0 1 2 0 0  
Totals. 29 1 8 27 10 6

**Put More Ginger in Work, Despatch Cold, and Win Easily.**  
(By Telegram to The Tribune.)  
Boston, April 9.—The last practice game prior to starting another championship race the Red Sox beat the Holy Cross College nine here to-day by a score of 8 to 1. The weather was colder than yesterday, but the Boston players were more on their toes than in the game against Harvard, making a dozen hits.

"Buck" O'Brien and Ray Collins pitched for the Sox, but the college boys made six hits—four against O'Brien and two against Collins—scoring one run on the combination of a single by R. Murray and a fine double past Duffy Lewis by J. Murray.  
The score follows:  
BOSTON. ab r h po a e  
Hooper, cf. 4 2 1 0 0 0  
Spencer, cf. 2 1 1 0 0 0  
Lewis, cf. 4 1 1 0 0 0  
Stahl, 1b. 2 0 1 0 0 0  
Janvin, 1b. 0 0 0 0 0 0  
Wagner, 2b. 4 0 1 0 0 0  
Cady, cf. 3 0 0 0 0 0  
O'Brien, p. 2 1 0 0 0 0  
Totals. 22 5 7 8 0 0

**TY COBB STILL DEFIANT**  
**Tigers to Play Opening Game Without Great Hitter.**  
Detroit, April 9.—President Navin of the Detroit club, in the American League, announced to-day that Ty Cobb, the champion batsman, would not start the season with his team at St. Louis to-morrow. He added that he intended to make no further inducements to Cobb, who is "holding out" for more salary.

Anniston, Ala., April 9.—Ty Cobb's team was scheduled to play here to-morrow, but the game was cancelled. In his telegram Cobb said:  
"Dismiss to-day for a week pending definite news from Detroit. Hold engagements until you hear from me."

## SCENES AT THE OPENING OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE BASEBALL SEASON IN BROOKLYN YESTERDAY



Upper picture—Borough President Steers, with E. J. and S. W. McKeever, now part owners of the Brooklyn club.  
Lower picture—Jake Daubert stealing second base in fifth inning.

### TO RENEW THE SUBURBAN

Plans Made for Revival of Racing at Belmont Park.

**HISTORIC STAKES OPENED**  
**Eighteen Fixtures on List, with Entries to Close on April 29.**

New interest in the opening of the racing season at Belmont Park on Memorial Day was added yesterday, when it was announced that the Suburban Handicap, Lawrence Realization and other historic stakes formerly offered by the Coney Island Jockey Club, at Sheepshead Bay, have been added to the list of the fixtures.

A meeting of the Westchester Racing Association was held yesterday at which the conditions for the various stakes were approved and sent to the printer. In all there will be twenty-three stakes for the Belmont Park meeting, which begins on May 30 and continues until July 5, with racing each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

The old classics, the Metropolitan, Brooklyn and Suburban handicaps, are in the list of those for horses three years old and upward; the Belmont, Withers, Lawrence Realization and Brooklyn Derby, for the three-year-olds exclusively; while the two-year-olds will be seen in the Juvenile, Great American, Great Trial and Astoria Dinner stakes and the new Keene Memorial.

The three stakes for the jumpers are the best of such races run under the old conditions—the Grand National, formerly run at Belmont Park; the Empire State, run at Gravesend, and the Independence, at Sheepshead Bay. It is the desire of those interested in the revival of racing that the best of the old time features be preserved without regard to where they were formerly run.

The added money to the Brooklyn and Suburban handicaps will be \$2,500, while \$2,000 and \$1,500 will be added in the other stakes except some of the selling races which are guaranteed. The three steeplechases will each have \$1,500 added.

A majority of the stakes will be handicaps, which will insure much better contests than under the old form of early closing conditions that governed the Belmont and Lawrence Realization.

The distances of the Brooklyn and Suburban handicaps will be one mile and a furlong instead of one mile and a quarter as formerly. This is made necessary by the condition of the one mile and a quarter chute at Belmont Park, which was torn up for the aviation meeting held there since racing ceased.

The only new fixture will be the Keene Memorial, named for the late James R. Keene, who was vice-chairman of the Jockey Club from its organization until his death and who always played a prominent part in the sport. It is a condition race for two-year-olds, aimed to bring out the best of the juveniles.

### YANKEES OFF TO BATTLE

Chance and His Men to Open Season in Washington.

**FOUR RECRUITS DOOMED**  
**The New York Manager Cleans House on Eve of the Pennant Race.**

Frank Chance and his Yankees, twenty-two strong, left the Pennsylvania station at 2:30 o'clock yesterday, for Washington to do battle with the Senators this afternoon in the opening game of the American League season in that city.

He said that his leg, which he strained slightly in Brooklyn last Monday, appeared to be as strong as ever and that he would be at first base when the umpire shouted "Play ball." He also gave out the cheering information that Derrick, who had four stitches taken in his hand after being spiked last Monday, would be back in the game inside of two weeks, as the wound was healing nicely.

Chance had not settled definitely on what pitcher he would use, but indicated that Ray Caldwell would be his choice. Much will depend, of course, on how he warms up to-day.

Before leaving this city the former manager of the Cubs sounded the doom of four recruits. Paddy Green escaped the minors for the present, and will get another trial in the big show because the Pirates refused to waive on his services. So to Pittsburgh he will go.

Douglas Harbison was released to the Chattanooga Club of the Southern League; John Priest to the Rochester Club of the International League; George Davis, the Williams College captain and pitcher of a year ago, to the Jersey City Club of the International League.

Pinley, a shortstop, was released some time ago to the Troy Club of the State League, and Caliser, a pitcher, to the Albany Club of the State League. The Albany players in the squad are likely to stick for the present, as Chance is under the limit allowed by baseball law.

### GOOD NEWS FOR RACING

**August Belmont to Bring His Yearlings, in France, Here.**

August Belmont, chairman of the Jockey Club, announced yesterday at a meeting of the stewards that he would ship thirteen yearlings by Ethelbert from France to this country on the steamship Minnewaska, which sails from the other side on April 23. These young thoroughbreds, with fifteen or twenty others from his Nursery stud in Kentucky, will be sold at auction without reserve during the forthcoming meeting at Belmont Park.

### Mayor Gaynor to Throw Out Ball for Giants

Jeff Tesreau Likely to Pitch Opening Game To-day.

**ALL READY FOR THE FRAY**  
**"Fans" to Enjoy Another Opening of the Much Opened Baseball Year Here.**

Mayor Gaynor will throw out the first ball at the Polo Grounds this afternoon, when the Giants open the National League season in conflict with the Boston Braves. Otherwise it will be just baseball without any frills, as John Foster, the general secretary of the club, remarked yesterday. The "fans" have grown weary of the time honored march across the field. The game's the thing, and that's what the New York Club hopes to give them.

Of course there will be music. The Seventh Regiment band will report at one o'clock to help entertain the crowd before the players come on the diamond for practice. If the weather is as cold as it was yesterday, the "fans" are not likely to go early, and the band may play to empty benches, but the gates will be opened at noon in anticipation of the usual opening day crowd, which heretofore has filled the spacious stands to the last seat.

The game will be called promptly at 2:30 o'clock, and while John J. McGraw was reticent, the chances are all in favor of "Big Jeff" Tesreau pitching. Matty and Marquard worked on Tuesday, while Red Ames pitched three innings yesterday. It is possible, of course, that the last named, who has the name of being a cold weather pitcher, will get the call, but Tesreau looks like the logical selection, as the little manager has been carefully grooming him for the opening game.

Hub Purdie or Tyler will be on the mound for Boston. The Braves arrived here last evening and to all appearances were full of confidence. It will be a decided shock, however, if they defeat the National League champions on their own diamond.

McGraw has never been much in the predicting line, and he was not disposed to depart from his usual custom last evening. He said that he was well satisfied with the condition of his men and saw no reason why they should not do as well as a year ago.

"I'll tell you next September," he smilingly remarked, when asked if he thought the Giants would repeat, but it was plain that he is not lacking in confidence. Captain Larry Doyle grinned, when asked his opinion, but that grin spoke volumes. He, too, said the men were in fine condition and scouted the suggestion.

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## LUCK IS WITH FOUR-LEAVED SHAMROCK

So Says Nicholson, Who Is to Design Lipton's Boat for America's Cup Race.

**FAVORS SMALLER CRAFT**

**New York Yacht Club to Take Time in Acting on Challenge—Members Quite Pleased.**

London, April 9.—"The luck will all be with us this time. The challenger is the four-leaved Shamrock, while the New York Yacht Club will be defending the America's cup for the thirteenth time," said Charles E. Nicholson, the yacht designer, of Gosport, England, to-day. Nicholson will design the boat with which Sir Thomas Lipton has again challenged for the blue ribbon trophy of the seas.

This will not be Nicholson's first connection with the contests for the cup, his yards at Gosport having been used to dock the original America when she was under repair.

He said to The Associated Press: "I wish to correct the unfortunate impression prevailing in the United States that I am afraid of a 90-foot yacht. I believe I could build one which would cross the Atlantic Ocean safely, but a 75-footer, which under present conditions is as large and expensive as the 90-footer of twenty years ago, is a boat which prudence and reason dictate."

"I have the greatest admiration for the genius and cleverness of American designers. These, coupled with the fact that all the conditions are in favor of the defender, make the task of designing a challenging yacht one of the keenest interest and calling for every ounce of ability I may possess."

"I hope Gardner as well as Herreshoff will be given a chance to design the defender. If so the preliminary races will be almost as interesting as the final cup contest."

"I have already erected a shed at the Gosport yards for the challenger and have her plans well under way. I expect to launch her in April, 1914."

"I hope in case the America's cup returns to the British Isles that the result will be the formation of a code governing all international yacht racing."

The chief topic of conversation among yachtsmen yesterday was the latest challenge by the Royal Ulster Yacht Club in behalf of Sir Thomas Lipton. While its exact wording is unknown except to Commodore Pratt and a few others, it is generally understood that it is the same as the one received on March 6, naming the yacht Shamrock IV and her length on the load waterline as seventy-five feet, all conditions mentioned at that time now being eliminated, thus making it possible for the New York Yacht Club to accept. General satisfaction was expressed that a race in 1914 is now practically assured.

A member of the club, in commenting on the situation, said: "There is no occasion for hurry in the matter, and I can state positively that no action will be taken until after the funeral of J. Pierpont Morgan, which I believe is set for April 14. About seventeen months must elapse before there can be any race, so there is plenty of time for preliminaries."

"My known racing yachtsman, speaking of the present situation, said: 'I believe Lipton's stand is correct. It is his privilege to challenge with any ship from 65 to 90 feet, and it is an unwritten law that the New York Yacht Club should meet him with a yacht of the same general dimensions. The club's interpretation of the deed of gift, to the effect that a challenger should only be met with a boat built up to the limit—ninety feet—is, to my mind, untenable.'

"If they should conclude to meet the challenger with the Reliance with this allowance, we should probably win, although there are conditions under which the smaller boat might win a race, such as a following and a rising breeze; but the chances would naturally be against the smaller boat. I should say that as fair a proposition as could be made, and one that would furnish good racing with boats that would not be useless after the race, would be to let Lipton build a boat up to the limit of the seventy-six rating class (Class 3) and under the new rule, which would give his boat about eight feet waterline. We could build several of these, and they would form a good, wholesome racing class."

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